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Photo Essay - Looking Backwards and Forwards: Works by Five Emeritus Art Faculty

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PHOTO ESSAY

Looking Backwards and Forwards: Works by Five Emeritus Art Faculty

Text by Stephen Smalley

Last spring, five BSU art professors emeritus displayed their artworks on campus, depicting their personal reminiscences of the Art Center, the university's oldest building. The mixed media exhibition was held in Boyden Hall, the building that housed the art department in a basement location until January 1976, when the department was moved to the Art Center. Participating former faculty members were John Droege, Roger Dunn, Joan Hausrath, Dorothy Pulsifer and Stephen Smalley, long-serving colleagues in the art department. It is worth noting that the five emeriti cumulatively taught at Bridgewater State for 175 years, a fortuitous tally as the university celebrates its 175th anniversary. Highly instrumental in the early stages of planning for the renovation of the 1905 structure that became the Art Center was David Flynn, who served as the university's Director of Development in the mid-1970s and remains a university and town icon.

The venerable 110-year-old building was originally constructed as a gymnasium serving both the institution and the community, later serving as a school library, followed by its use as office space for humanities faculty. In May 1976, after its first semester in the renovated building, the art department's inaugural group of art majors graduated. The five emeriti share a joyous and cherished

relationship with the building. To this day, stories of the building's ghostly presences are recounted and its architectural heritage has been linked, perhaps faintly, to the influences of the renowned architect, Henry Hobson Richardson.

Presented on these pages are images from the exhibition as well as additional representational work from the five emeriti who continue to be active in the studio and in the profession.

From his Plymouth home studio, **John Droege** is mightily involved with technical printing processes in photography and continues to mentor exhibiting photographers.

Roger Dunn has recently relocated to Annapolis, in his home state of Maryland, and is at work enthusiastically in his home studio. Roger continues to advise and promote established artists. **Joan Hausrath** continues her exploration of non-toxic printmaking techniques from her Pawtucket, Rhode Island studio, and is heavily involved with community art endeavors. She travels extensively with a fondness for extended stays in Mexico, and maintains an active exhibition record.

Dorothy Pulsifer maintains an active home studio in Middleboro, where her diverse art production includes



John Droege
(Photo Credit: Mary Droege)



Emeritus Art Faculty (L-R): Roger Dunn, Dorothy Pulsifer, Joan Hausrath, Stephen Smalley (Photo Credit: David Wilson)

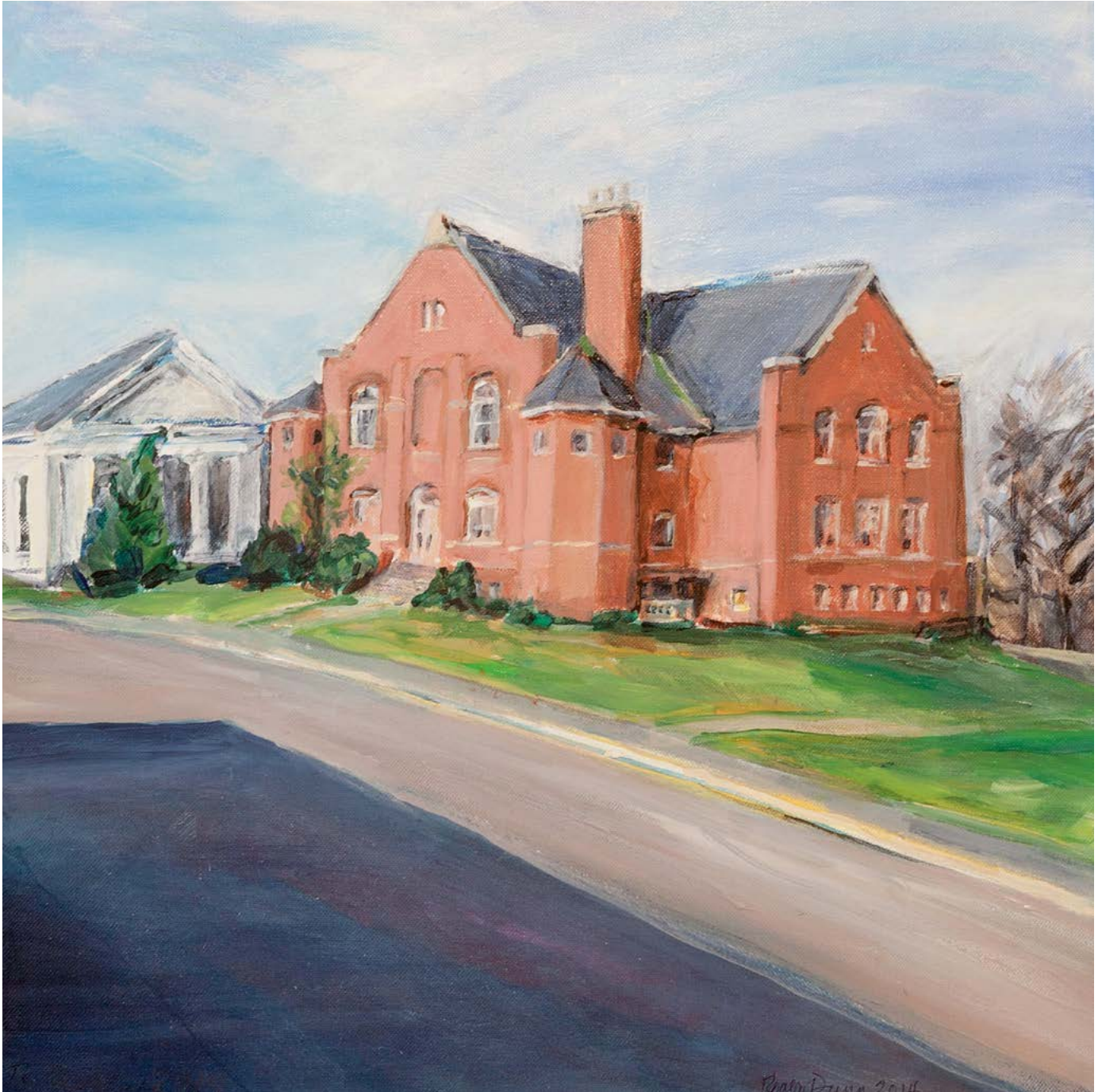


Gardner Boyden Gymnasium, State Normal School, Bridgewater, Mass. C. 1920
(Boston: American Art Post Card Co.) Courtesy of www.digitalcommonwealth.org.

digital collages with images scanned from photographs and objects. Her recent glass work involves fused glass and copper foil while her long-standing clay work focuses on wood-fired vessels, techniques she explores with fellow artists Ron Mello and Rose Essen-Dawson. She has recently returned from travels in Italy, Switzerland, and Germany. A Bridgewater resident since 1972, **Stephen Smalley** continues to offer honors art history colloquia at the university and maintains a steady exhibition record, often featuring his continuing series on Henry VIII. Trips to London further his interest in popular culture and the monarchy. He is serving as chair of the Emeritus Faculty Club Executive Committee for a fifth year.



Stephen Smalley, ADVANTAGE: MR. HULK 2015, mixed media, 6 X 4-3/8 inches.



Roger Dunn, ART CENTER, BSU, Acrylic on canvas, 20 X 20 inches (Photo Credit: Katie Lingan).



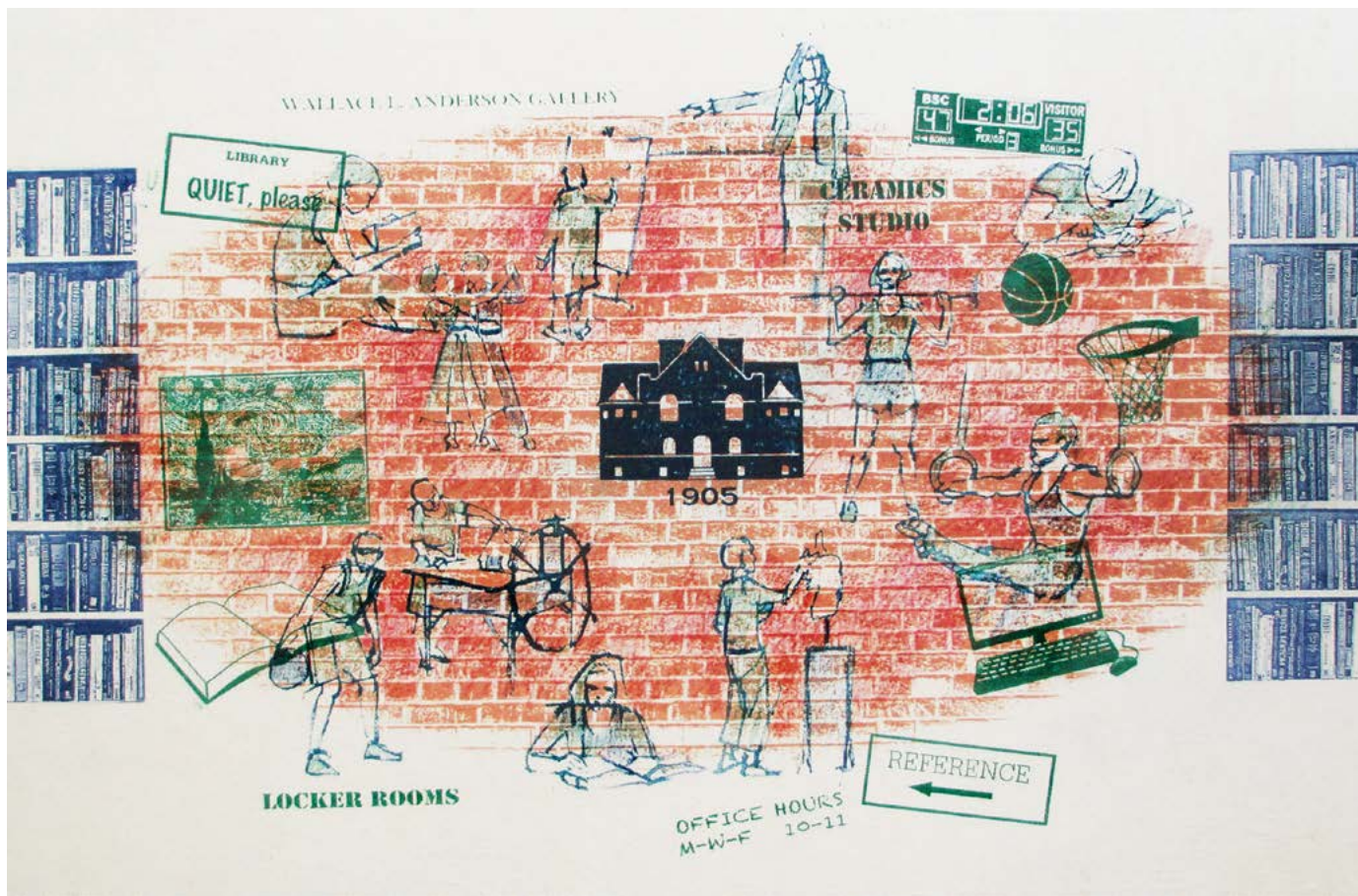
Roger Dunn, TAJ MAHAL, AGRA, INDIA, Acrylic on canvas, 32 X 32 inches (Photo Credit: Katie Langan).



Joan Hausrath, RELICS AND ICONS, Intaglio and lithography, 21 x 14 inches.



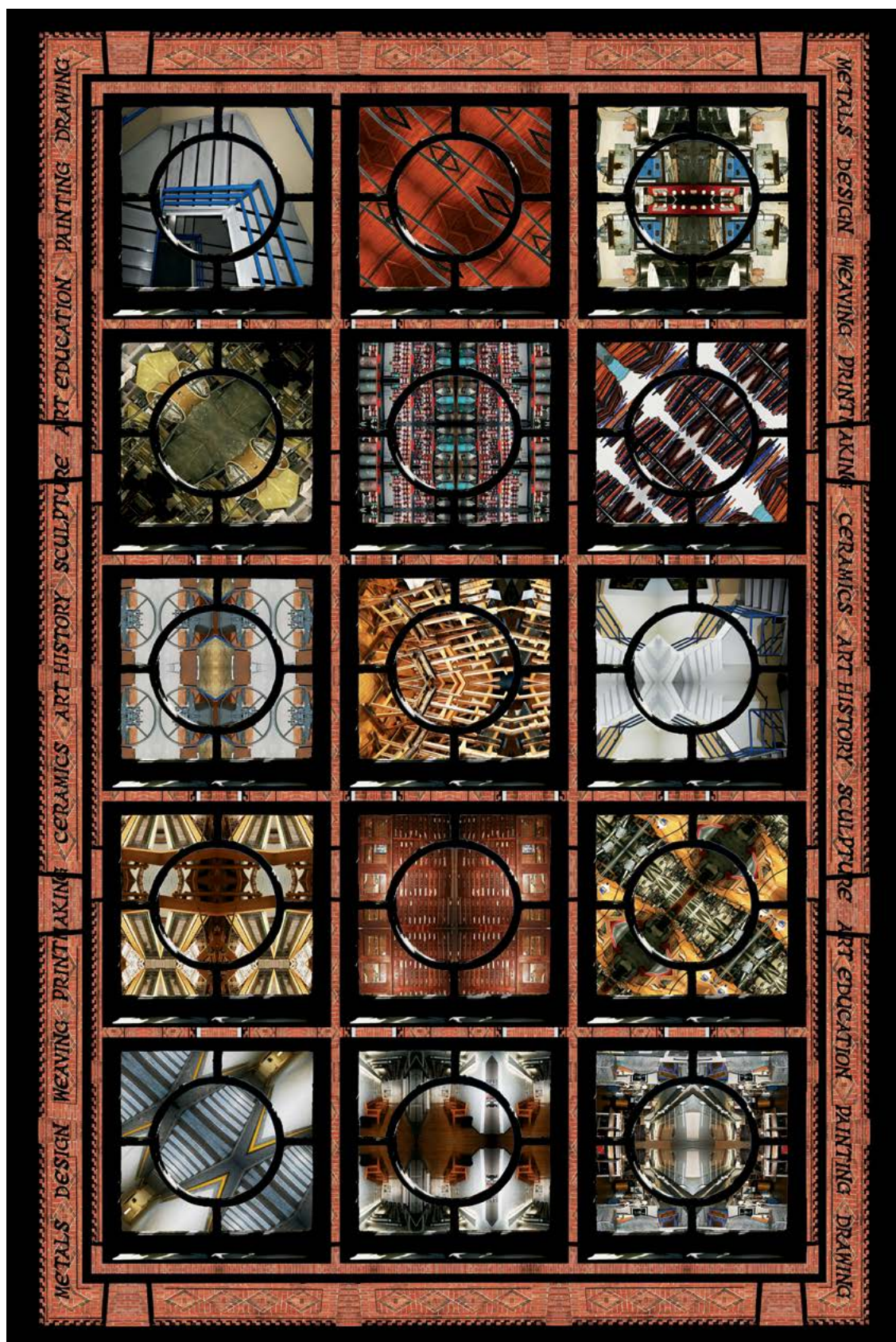
Joan Hausrath, CIRCLES, SITES AND RELICS, Intaglio and lithography, 21.5 x 15.5 inches.



Joan Hausrath, 40 SCHOOL STREET, Intaglio and lithography, 8 X 13 inches.



Dorothy Pulsifer, SHELL VESSEL, Wood-fired pottery, 5 x 6 inches.



Dorothy Pulsifer, *ART CENTER INSIDE*, Digital "mosaic" image.



*John Droege MARSHALL'S POINT LIGHT REFLECTED ON THE ROCKY COAST, PORT CLYDE, MAINE
[appeared on the cover of Bridgewater Review Vol. 1, No. 1 May-June, 1982], Photograph.*



John Droege, MOSQUITO COVE, Photograph.



Stephen Smalley, *AFTERGLOW* 2015, acrylic on canvas, 23 X 27 inches, (Photo credit: Steve Rowell).